

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 8, 2006 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1-4 have been allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification. Claims 5, 8 and 10 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 1-13 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Support for the amendments to the claims is found in the specification, for example, in column 2, lines 55-63, and in Figures 1-9.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 5-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Carlson, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent 5,676,566). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claims 5, 8, and 10 to advance this application to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter via a continuing application.

A. Claims 5-9 and 11-12

Each of independent claims 5 and 8 recites a cable trough having a cable pathway structure including a bottom portion and upstanding sides extending from the bottom portion. The cable pathway structure further includes a first open end and a second opposite open end. The first and second opposite open ends each define a mating U-shaped trough section configured to mate with other horizontal trough sections.

The enclosure 10 of Carlson does not have first and second opposite open ends that define a mating U-shaped trough section configured to mate with other horizontal trough sections. Carlson instead discloses an enclosure 10 for a multimedia outlet. The enclosure 10 mounts vertically to a wall. The enclosure is enclosed and does not have a first open end and a second opposite open end. While the Examiner points to sides 16-19 of the Carlson enclosure, Applicants respectfully submit that sides 16 and 18 are not "opposite" sides, and that sides 17 and 19 are not "open" sides. Nonetheless, the sides 16-19 of the Carlson

enclosure 10 do not define U-shaped trough sections configured to mate with horizontal trough sections, as required by independent claims 5 and 8.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 5 and 8, and dependent claims 6-7, 9, and 11-12 are patentable.

B. Claims 10 and 13

Independent claim 10 recites a cable trough having a cable pathway structure including a bottom portion and upstanding sides extending from the bottom portion. The cable pathway structure further includes a first open end and a second open end. The first and second open ends each define a mating U-shaped trough section configured to mate with other horizontal trough sections.

The enclosure 10 of Carlson does not have first and second open ends that define a mating U-shaped trough section configured to mate with other horizontal trough sections. While the Examiner points to sides 16-19 of the Carlson enclosure, none of the sides 16-19 of the Carlson enclosure 10 define a U-shaped trough section configured to mate with horizontal trough sections.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 10, and dependent claim 13 are patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-4 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-13) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.



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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen A. Fitzsimmons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Karen A. Fitzsimmons
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KAF:cjc